## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1. (currently amended): A method for producing double-crosslinked hyaluronate material, comprising the steps of:
- (a) subjecting hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof to a first crosslinking reaction using either an epoxide compound or a carbodiimide compound as a crosslinking agent, and
- (b) subjecting the product obtained from step (a) to a second crosslinking reaction using either anthe epoxide compound as a crosslinking agent if aer carbodiimide compound wasnet used as the crosslinking agent in step (a), or using a carbodiimide compound as a crosslinking agent if an epoxide compound was used as the crosslinking agent in step (a), (b) as a crosslinking agent, thereby obtaining a double crosslinked hyaluronate material.
- 2. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the epoxide compound is a polyfunctional epoxide compound.
- 3. (original): The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the epoxide compound is 1,4-butanediol diglycidyl ether (BDDE), ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether (EGDGE), 1,6-hexanediol diglycigyl ether, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polypropylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polytetramethylene glycol digylcidyl ether, neopentyl glycol digylcidyl ether, polyglycerol

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polyglycidyl ether, diglycerol polyglycidyl ether, glycerol polyglycidyl ether, trimethylolpropane polyglycidyl ether, pentaerythritol polyglycidyl ether, sorbitol polyglycidyl ether, or a combination thereof.

- 4. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stoichiometry ratio of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof to the epoxide compound in the crosslinking reaction is about 1:50 to 1:1 by crosslinking equivalent.
- 5. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the epoxide compound is in a solution with a concentration of about 1 to 30% by weight.
- 6. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature for crosslinking reaction using the epoxide compound as the crosslinking agent is between about 20 and 60°C.
- 7. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the time for crosslinking reaction with the epoxide compound as the crosslinking agent is between 10 minutes and 12 hours.
- 8. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbodiimide compound is 1-methyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide, 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)

carbodiimide, 3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide, or a combination thereof.

9. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stoichiometry ratio of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof to the carbodiimide compound in the crosslinking reaction is about 1:50 to 1:1 by crosslinking equivalent.

10. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbodiimide compound is in a solution with a concentration of about 0.5 to 30% by weight.

11. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature for crosslinking reaction using the carbodiimide compound as the crosslinking agent is between about 20 and 60°C.

- 12. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the time for crosslinking reaction using the carbodiimide compound as the crosslinking agent is between 30 minutes and 12 hours.
- 13. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof is contained in a material.
  - 14. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in step (a), the hyaluronic

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acid or a salt thereof is preformed into a solution, film, membrane, powder, microsphere, fiber, filament, matrix, porous substrate or gel before undergoing the first crosslinking reaction.

15. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the film is formed by placing a solution of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof with a concentration of about 1 to 20% by weight in a mold and drying at a temperature between 25 and 70°C.

16. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the film has a thickness of about 10 to 500  $\mu m$ .

- 17. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microsphere is formed by intermittently extruding and dropping a solution of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof into a coagulant.
- 18. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microsphere has a diameter of about 2.0 to 0.1 mm.
- 19. (original): The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the fiber is formed by extruding a solution of hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof into a coagulant.
  - 20. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in step (b), the product

obtained from step (a) is preformed into a solution, film, membrane, powder, microsphere, fiber, filament, matrix, porous substrate or gel before undergoing the second crosslinking reaction.

- 21. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the film is formed by placing the product obtained from step (a) in a mold and drying at a temperature between 25 and 70°C.
- 22. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the film has a thickness of about 10 to 500  $\mu m$ .
- 23. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the microsphere is formed by intermittently extruding and dropping the product obtained from step (a) into a coagulant.
- 24. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the microsphere has a diameter of about 2.0 to 0.1 mm.
- 25. (original): The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fiber is formed by extruding the product obtained from step (a) into a coagulant.
- 26. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, after step (b), further comprising the following step:
  - (c) washing and drying the double-crosslinked hyaluronate material obtained in step (b).

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- 27. (original): The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein step (c) includes washing and drying at a temperature less than 60°C.
- 28. (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the double-cross linked hyaluronate material is in the form of solution, film, membrane, powder, microsphere, fiber, filament, matrix, porous substrate or gel.
- 29. (original): A double-crosslinked hyaluronate material produced by the method as claimed in claim 1.